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COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

HEARING

ON

ARTILLERY BILL

(H. R. 17347).

HON. WILLIAM H. TAFT,
SECRETARY OF WAR.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,
1907.

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ARTILLERY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., January 8, 1907.

The committee met at 10.30 o'clock a. m.

Present: Messrs. Hull (chairman), Parker, Capron, Young, Kahn, Fletcher, Burke, Bradley, Hay, Slayden, and Talbott.

There were also present Hon. William H. Taft, Secretary of War; Gen. J. Franklin Bell, and Brig. Gen. Arthur Murray.

The committee had under consideration the following bill:

[H. R. 17347, Fifty-ninth Congress, first session.]

A BILL To reorganize and to increase the efficiency of the artillery of the United States Army.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the artillery of the United States Army shall consist of the Chief of Artillery, the Coast Artillery, and the Field Artillery. The Coast Artillery and the Field Artillery shall be organized as hereinafter specified, and the artillery shall belong to the line of the Army: *Provided*, That on and after July first, nineteen hundred and eight, the Chief of Artillery shall cease to exercise supervision over the Field Artillery and shall thereafter be designated as the Chief of Coast Artillery.

SEC. 2. That the Chief of Artillery or Chief of Coast Artillery shall be an additional member of the General Staff Corps, and his other duties shall be prescribed by the Secretary of War.

When a vacancy occurs in the office of the Chief of Artillery or Chief of Coast Artillery the President may appoint to such vacancy, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, an officer selected from the Coast Artillery, who shall serve for a period of four years unless reappointed for further periods of four years; and any officer who shall hereafter serve as Chief of Artillery or Chief of Coast Artillery shall, when retired, be retired with the rank, pay, and allowances authorized by law for a brigadier-general on the retired list. The position vacated by an officer appointed Chief of Artillery or Chief of Coast Artillery shall be filled by promotion in that arm according to existing law, but the officer thus appointed shall continue in the same lineal position in his arm which he would have held if he had not been so appointed, and shall be an additional number in the grade from which he was appointed or to which he may be promoted; *Provided*, That there shall not be at any time in the Coast Artillery more than one additional officer by reason of the appointment of a Chief of Artillery or Chief of Coast Artillery and the relief of an officer from such duty.

SEC. 3. That the Coast Artillery is the artillery charged with the care and use of the fixed and movable elements of land and coast fortifications, including the submarine mine and torpedo defenses.

SEC. 4. That the Field Artillery is the artillery which accompanies an army in the field, and includes light artillery, horse artillery, siege artillery, and mountain artillery.

SEC. 5. That the Coast Artillery shall constitute a corps, and shall consist of one Chief of Coast Artillery with the rank, pay, and allowances of a brigadier-general, as provided in section one of this act; fourteen colonels; fourteen lieutenant-colonels; forty-two majors; two hundred and ten captains; two hundred and ten first lieutenants, and two hundred and ten second lieutenants; and

the captains and lieutenants provided for in this section not required for duty with companies shall be available for duty as staff officers of the various coast artillery commands and for such other details as may be authorized by law and regulations; twenty-one sergeants-major with the rank, pay, and allowances of regimental sergeants-major of infantry; twenty-six master electricians; sixty engineers; seventy-four electrician-sergeants, first class; seventy-four electrician-sergeants, second class; forty-two sergeants-major with the rank, pay, and allowances of battalion sergeants-major of infantry; forty-two master gunners; sixty firemen; one hundred and seventy companies, and fourteen bands, organized as now provided for by law for artillery corps bands.

SEC. 6. That each company of Coast Artillery shall consist of one captain, one first lieutenant, one second lieutenant, one first sergeant, one quartermaster-sergeant, two cooks, two mechanics, two musicians, and such number of sergeants, corporals, and privates as may be fixed by the President in accordance with the requirements of the service to which it may be assigned: *Provided*, That the total number of sergeants and corporals in the Coast Artillery shall not exceed one thousand three hundred and sixty and two thousand and forty, respectively, and that the total enlisted strength of the Coast Artillery, as provided under this act, shall not exceed nineteen thousand one hundred and forty-seven, exclusive of master electricians, electrician-sergeants, first class, and electrician-sergeants, second class.

SEC. 7. That the Field Artillery shall consist of six regiments, each organized as follows: One colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, two majors, eleven captains, thirteen first lieutenants, and thirteen second lieutenants; two veterinarians, one sergeant-major, one quartermaster-sergeant, one commissary-sergeant, two battalion sergeants-major, two battalion quartermaster-sergeants, two color-sergeants, one band, and six batteries organized into two battalions of three batteries each. Of the officers herein provided, the captains and lieutenants not required for duty with batteries shall be available for detail as regimental and battalion staff officers and for such other details as may be authorized by law and regulations. Battalion adjutants shall be detailed from the captains, and battalion quartermasters and commissaries from lieutenants. Each field artillery band shall be organized as provided by law for cavalry bands: *Provided*, That the President in his discretion may increase by nine mounted orderlies the regimental strength herein authorized.

SEC. 8. That each battery of Field Artillery shall consist of one captain, two first lieutenants, two second lieutenants, one first sergeant, one quartermaster-sergeant, one stable sergeant, one chief mechanic, six sergeants, twelve corporals, four mechanics, three cooks, two musicians, and one hundred and two privates, the commissioned officers to be assigned from among those hereinbefore authorized for the regiment: *Provided*, That the President in his discretion may increase the number of sergeants in any battery of field artillery to eight, the number of corporals to sixteen, the number of mechanics to seven, the number of musicians to three, and the number of privates to one hundred and forty-nine: *Provided further*, That nothing contained in this act shall increase the total number of enlisted men in the line of the Army, together with the native scouts, as authorized by section thirty-six of the act of Congress approved February second, nineteen hundred and one, entitled "An act to increase the efficiency of the permanent military establishment of the United States."

SEC. 9. That on and after the approval of this act the Coast Artillery and the Field Artillery shall be permanently separated, the separation to be effected as follows:

All officers in the present Artillery Corps shall remain on one list as regards promotion until sufficient promotions shall have been made, as far as the present number of officers permit, to provide in each grade, together with the officers remaining therein, the total number of officers of the grade provided for in this act for the Coast and Field Artillery combined. After such promotion they shall, in each grade, be assigned by the President to the Coast Artillery or to the Field Artillery, according to special aptitude and qualifications and agreeably to individual preference, so far as may be practicable and for the good of the service, such assignments to be permanent; and all officers promoted or appointed in the artillery thereafter shall be commissioned as officers of the Coast Artillery or the Field Artillery, as the case may be, and shall be promoted by seniority in their own branch, subject to the provisions of the laws governing promotion in the Army at large.

SEC. 10. That all vacancies created or caused by this act which can be filled by promotion of officers now in the Artillery Corps shall be filled by promotion

according to seniority, subject to examination as now prescribed by law. Of the vacancies created or caused by this act which can not be filled by promotion of officers now in the Artillery Corps, one-fifth in each branch shall be filled in each fiscal year until the total number of officers herein provided for shall have been attained. The vacancies remaining in the grade of second lieutenant shall be filled by appointment in the following order: First, of graduates of the United States Military Academy; second, of enlisted men whose fitness for advancement shall have been determined by competitive examination; third, of candidates from civil life; and all such appointments shall be made in accordance with the provisions of existing law.

Sec. 11. That the regimental and battalion noncommissioned staff officers herein authorized for regiments of Field Artillery shall have the pay and allowances of corresponding grades in the cavalry; the battalion quartermaster-sergeant shall have the pay and allowances of sergeant-major, junior grade, of the Artillery Corps; the chief mechanic the pay and allowances of sergeant, and the mechanics of Field Artillery the pay and allowances of artificers of Field Artillery; engineer, sixty-five dollars a month and allowances of ordnance-sergeant; electrician-sergeant, first class, forty-five dollars a month and allowances of ordnance-sergeant; electrician-sergeant, second class, thirty-five dollars a month and allowances of ordnance-sergeant; master gunner, the pay and allowances of ordnance-sergeant; fireman, thirty dollars a month and allowances of ordnance-sergeant; and that the rates of pay of all other enlisted men of the Coast and the Field Artillery shall be as now provided by law: *Provided*, That casemate electricians, observers, first class, and plotters shall receive nine dollars a month in addition to their pay; that chief planters, chief loaders, observers, second class, gun commanders, and gun pointers shall receive seven dollars a month in addition to their pay, and that first-class gunners shall receive two dollars a month and second-class gunners one dollar a month in addition to their pay: *Provided further*, That the number of casemate electricians shall not exceed forty-four; that the number of observers, first class, shall not exceed one hundred and seventy; that the number of plotters shall not exceed one hundred and seventy; that the number of chief planters shall not exceed forty-four; that the number of chief loaders shall not exceed forty-four; that the number of observers, second class, shall not exceed one hundred and seventy; that the number of gun commanders shall not exceed three hundred and seventy-eight, and that the number of gun pointers shall not exceed three hundred and seventy-eight: *And provided further*, That no enlisted man shall receive under this section more than one addition to his pay.

Sec. 12. That in addition to the chaplains now authorized for the Artillery Corps the President is authorized to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and subject to the laws governing appointment of chaplains in the Army, one chaplain for each regiment of Field Artillery and two for the Coast Artillery, with the rank, pay, and allowances now authorized by law for chaplains in the Army.

Sec. 13. That all laws and parts of laws inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

THE CHAIRMAN. Gentlemen of the committee, we have met this morning for the purpose of considering the bill H. R. 17347.

Secretary TAFT. Mr. Chairman, I thought you or your secretary wrote me that you desired to hear me on the matter of brigade posts.

THE CHAIRMAN. No; on the artillery bill.

Secretary TAFT. But I should like to be heard on the brigade posts.

THE CHAIRMAN. We will hear you on both, but it is the artillery bill that we desire to take up and dispose of as soon as possible.

Secretary TAFT. That is the most important bill in the matter of legislation that the Army has pending before Congress. I have here a statement of General Murray on the subject, which is very comprehensive.

THE CHAIRMAN. The committee has heard General Murray, and I think the hearing which he attended has been printed.

Secretary TAFT. General Murray's statement contains a great deal more than I know or can say on the subject.

Gentlemen, the bill contemplates, in round numbers, the increase of the Coast Artillery 5,000 men and the increase of the Field Artillery about a thousand. It is a little less than a thousand for the Field Artillery and a little more than 5,000 for the Coast Artillery. Its main feature, with respect to the change of organization, is that it separates the Coast Artillery from the Field Artillery. Under modern conditions the Coast Artillery and the Field Artillery ought not to be united. The Field Artillery is part of the mobile army, composed of the light artillery, siege guns, and mountain batteries, which are supposed to move with infantry and cavalry. The Coast Artillery in some countries—like France—is really made part of the marine force, but not all of it. There are modern coast batteries in France that are manned by sailors.

The practical difficulties with reference to the two, or the maintenance of the two together, are really very great. In the matter of the examination of officers, for instance, the Coast Artillery requires a different kind of preparation from that of the Field Artillery. The truth is that there is quite as great a difference between the large guns of the Coast Artillery and the lighter guns of the Field Artillery as there is between the lighter guns of the Field Artillery and the Springfield rifles of the infantry or cavalry.

The statement was made that in order to man all the Coast Artillery with a full equipment—one shift, so to speak—requires something over 45,000 men, but of course that is not a fair statement; we do not need that force in time of peace. General Murray has proposed for adoption a system of concentration of posts with a view to the training of a smaller body of men to manage all the guns in the batteries surrounding that central post, and he is of opinion, and I have no doubt correctly, that there are a great many, or quite a large element, in that 45,000 that could be improvised, so to speak; I mean haulers of ammunition and a great many men who do not do the electrical work and the work that calls for high skill. So that the statement that we need so large a body of men to man all the guns may be misleading, when accompanied by the statement that in order to man the guns it needs a high degree of skill and experience. It does with respect to a great many of the employees, but not all. Nevertheless, it is of the greatest importance that we should have a force sufficiently large that we could train the men as to each battery and the management of the guns and the ranges as to each battery.

It goes without saying that if we are going to spend a great many millions of dollars—and we have already spent about \$70,000,000—to make our coast defenses what they ought to be—and they are not yet what they ought to be—we are very foolish not to get a force together which, in time of war, might be rapidly expanded into a force which would be able to make those coast defenses effective.

The field artillery has become more and more important in the make-up of an army. The experiences in the Russian-Japanese war, and the possibility of using a regiment or a brigade of artillery in such a way as to have what they call indirect fire, making it very destructive, and putting it in such a situation as to avoid attack, make the development of that branch exceedingly important. We are now arranging the posts with a view to having the regiments of artillery together, and this bill provides for the regimental organization of Field Artillery. It ought to be adopted because that is the

modern and accepted method. It provides also for increased pay for some of the skilled enlisted men. The very great difficulty that we have in recruiting men for this service—and the promptness with which they leave the service after a term in order to receive \$75 or \$100 a month because of the training which they have received—indicates that we must make the positions more desirable and that we should retain those who, by our efforts, have been made skilled for the purpose for which they were enlisted.

I think, Mr. Chairman, that that comprehends generally the statement in favor of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Why can not the Chief of Artillery exercise supervision over both branches of the service?

Secretary TAFT. I suppose he could, but if you would make them different corps there would be no point in his doing so, and it would be better, it seems to me, to concentrate his attention on the Coast Artillery. We have no particular chief for the infantry; we have no particular chief for the cavalry, and under this system the light artillery is simply another branch of the mobile army. There would be quite enough for him to do in managing the Coast Artillery. Then, too, if you separate them the chief ought to be promoted from the officers of the Coast Artillery, because they are the ones who are familiar with the needs of that service, and it is so separate a branch substantially that I do not think it is necessary to bother him with the control of a body of men that are of the line and under line officers, and ought to be.

The CHAIRMAN (reading):

When a vacancy occurs in the office of the Chief of Artillery or Chief of Coast Artillery the President may appoint to such vacancy, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, an officer selected from the Coast Artillery, who shall serve for a period of four years unless reappointed for further periods of four years, etc.

That is simply intended to cover the man that is in before the separation?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; I presume that is so.

The CHAIRMAN. It reads as though there are to be two chiefs of artillery—that is, you may take it that way.

Secretary TAFT. The bill was elaborately drawn to prevent—it may not have succeeded—but it was elaborately drawn to prevent having two chiefs, and to make the succession from the Chief of Artillery to the Chief of Coast Artillery take place at the time when the two corps were to separate.

There is another subject that I have not mentioned and which calls for attention, and that is the very important torpedo practice. I think General Murray counts on the use of these new men for the torpedo work as possibly more important even than the management of the guns themselves, for they have to be trained particularly for torpedo work and submarine work.

The CHAIRMAN. How many regiments not organized as regiments, but how many regiments would the present organization of artillery create?

Secretary TAFT. There are 126 Coast Artillery companies and there are 30 batteries of light artillery.

The CHAIRMAN. That makes 156 altogether.

Secretary TAFT. One hundred and fifty-six; yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. I am speaking of the number of companies; how many regimental organizations would there be if all of them were—

Secretary TAFT. Twelve to a regiment.

Mr. SLAYDEN. That would be ten and a half regiments of Coast Artillery?

Mr. HAY. It would be more than that.

General MURRAY. The present organization is 13; it is on the basis of 13 regiments.

Mr. SLAYDEN. There would be three regiments of Field Artillery; that would be thirteen and a half.

Secretary TAFT. There are five regiments. It is 109 to the regiment.

The CHAIRMAN. It increases the artillery seven regiments in the regimental organization?

Secretary TAFT. No, six regiments. It is one regiment of light artillery; 993 men of the light artillery, and 5,093 of the Coast Artillery.

The CHAIRMAN. You have 14 colonels and 14 lieutenant-colonels, and I assume that you have the minor officers to correspond with them?

General MURRAY. That is in the proposed bill. It proposes to have the equivalent of 14 regiments of Coast Artillery and 6 regiments of Field Artillery.

The CHAIRMAN. That makes 20 regiments in all, as against 13 as now constituted?

General MURRAY. Yes, sir; as now constituted, it would be the equivalent of 13.

The CHAIRMAN. So it would be an increase of 7 regiments?

General MURRAY. Yes, sir; one for the Field Artillery and—

The CHAIRMAN. In other words, you give the Coast Artillery one regiment more than the entire corps has now. Now, is it proposed if this bill passes to at once commission the officers for all of those regiments?

Secretary TAFT. Section 9 of the bill provides as follows:

All officers in the present artillery corps shall remain on one list as regards promotion until sufficient promotions shall have been made, as far as the present number of officers permit, to provide in each grade, together with the officers remaining therein, the total number of officers of the grade provided for in this act for the Coast and Field Artillery combined.

The CHAIRMAN. That is, you promote them right up to what this law authorizes?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir. The same section continues as follows:

After such promotion they shall, in each grade, be assigned by the President to the Coast Artillery or to the Field Artillery, according to special aptitude and qualifications, and agreeably to individual preference, so far as may be practicable and for the good of the service, such assignments to be permanent; and all officers promoted or appointed in the artillery thereafter shall be commissioned as officers of the Coast Artillery or the Field Artillery, as the case may be, and shall be promoted by seniority in their own branch, subject to the provisions of the laws governing the promotion in the Army at large.

The CHAIRMAN. Right on that point, Mr. Secretary—that provides for the immediate promotion of all the men—the number that is authorized by this bill?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. You are about 5,000 short in the artillery now, are you not?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. That would make them short of the enlisted men——

Secretary TAFT. It is not quite so large.

The CHAIRMAN. The effect of this bill would be to at once create a very large corps of officers by promotion and filling in, as provided at the bottom of the next section, before the men are enlisted at all.

Secretary TAFT. We would go ahead with the enlistment of the new organization right away, and we would need the officers for the new organization.

The CHAIRMAN. If you can enlist them; but you could fill up the entire officers if you did not succeed in getting the present number authorized by law.

Secretary TAFT. I suppose what they would do would be to transfer the old men to make up the new organization and transfer the men out of the new organization.

The CHAIRMAN. Just skeletonize all of them.

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir.

General MURRAY. In other words, we would take the trained men out of our present organization. Say now we have the equivalent of 13 regiments for both the Field and the Coast Artillery. The Field Artillery amounts to 5 regiments, so that would leave us 8 regiments of Coast Artillery, as the equivalent of 8 regiments as at present organized. We propose to increase that by 6 regiments of Coast Artillery. Now, then, with those new regiments we would of course take as the basis of the different new organizations—which are 44 companies—our trained men from the companies we already have and then recruit in those companies with these trained men as the basis of each new and separate organization. It would be the same with the Field Artillery. You would have to do the same thing with your one extra regiment created under the bill—you would have to make your basis from the old men that you now have and then recruit up.

Mr. YOUNG. Your purpose, then, is to have some trained men in each organization?

General MURRAY. We would do that at once, as was done when we increased from five to seven regiments in 1898.

Mr. HAY. As I understand it, the artillery is now 5,000 short.

General MURRAY. About 3,000 short.

Mr. HAY. What assurances have we that you will be able to fill up those commands which are proposed to be provided for in this bill—what provision of the bill will make men enlist?

Secretary TAFT. You increase the pay, to begin with.

Mr. HAY. How much?

General MURRAY. It is not a question exactly of increased pay. We first make 44 new organizations, which would give us so many noncommissioned officers who have increased pay over the ordinary private. There would be 44 new organizations, and in addition to that the increase under the bill is \$55 per company, which gives us about 10 men per company with increased pay over what they now have. So that I would hope——

Mr. HAY. Fifty-five dollars per year or \$55 per month?

General MURRAY. Fifty-five dollars per month per company.

Mr. PARKER. Making about \$84 per annum per man; I mean skillful men.

General MURRAY. Some of them will have the \$7 a month increase; you would have to look at your bill to get at exactly what that would be. But with these new organizations I would, of course, be taking my old men in. I would make my start there, and then with the increased pay I believe we would have no trouble in bringing up our new organization of 44 certainly to the percentage that we now have, and I also believe that with that extra pay of \$55 per company we could increase the strength all along the line, say, from 10 to 15 per cent. In other words, while we now have an actual strength of about 70 per cent, I believe we could run it up all along the line, with the increased pay and with the new organization, to somewhere between 80 and 90 per cent.

Mr. SLAYDEN. I do not quite understand your statement there. You say you are going to increase the pay \$55 per company?

General MURRAY. Yes, sir.

Mr. SLAYDEN. Does that mean that there will be \$55 each month additional pay to each member in the organization?

General MURRAY. A certain number of men in each company will receive increased pay.

Mr. SLAYDEN. To that amount?

General MURRAY. Not each one, but the sum total of all in the company is \$55.

Mr. KAHN. That is set forth in section 11 of the bill, on page 7.

General MURRAY. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Secretary, getting back to the proposition that I was referring to, if this bill should pass as it is you would immediately have an increase of 357 noncommissioned officers?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Including promotions?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. And if you did not secure any more men, you would simply be increasing the officers without getting any increase in the Army?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; which would not be a bad thing.

The CHAIRMAN. Why would it not be well to insert a proviso that the officers should not be commissioned except as the organizations are recruited?

Secretary TAFT. If you prefer that, very well. I am very anxious to have the additional officers at any rate. What I mean is, I think you would find if you increased the organization that you would increase the recruiting—I mean as to the separate organizations.

The CHAIRMAN. Is not the question of extra pay for certain non-commissioned officers in a separate bill generally?

General MURRAY. It is all in this bill.

Mr. KAHN. It is contained in section 11.

Mr. PARKER. Mr. Secretary, as I understand it, the total number being increased from 13 to 20, is practically an increase of a little over one-half throughout the whole artillery, and an increase of the Coast Artillery.

Secretary TAFT. A little over half.

Mr. PARKER. The whole force of artillery is increased by a little over half?

Secretary TAFT. Yes; about 50 per cent.

Mr. PARKER. The Coast Artillery being increased from 8 to 14 is an increase of 75 per cent.

Secretary TAFT. It is an increase from 8 to 13.

Mr. PARKER. General Murray said 14.

Secretary TAFT. It is 14,000 in the Coast Artillery, and you increase it 5,000 men. That does not make it 50 per cent.

The CHAIRMAN. It increases the regimental organizations.

Secretary TAFT. I am speaking of men and officers too.

The CHAIRMAN. This increase of the entire organization of commissioned and noncommissioned officers amounts to 7 additional regiments of artillery. Now, as to the number of men, it is purely a question of how many men you put in a company.

Secretary TAFT. My calculation makes it 6, it seems to me, since I have gone over the matter; it is from 14 to 20.

The CHAIRMAN. It is from 13 to 20, Mr. Secretary. You have 13 now.

Secretary TAFT. They have that number of colonels, but I do not think they will have that number of regiments.

Mr. PARKER. There are 357 new officers. How many officers are there now in the corps?

Secretary TAFT. There is an increase of 296 officers, excluding chaplains.

Mr. PARKER. How many are there now?

Secretary TAFT. There are 663, including 12 chaplains. That is 650 increased by 296.

The CHAIRMAN. There are 356 now, excluding chaplains. Are there 51 officers now to an organization without the chaplain? How is that, General Bell? Are there not 51 officers now to a regiment?

General BELL. There are 51, including the chaplain.

Mr. PARKER. When was the last increase made in the artillery—how many years ago?

General MURRAY. In 1901.

Mr. PARKER. How many officers were there in the corps before that?

Secretary TAFT. This change was made on March 2, 1901, and provided for 651 officers.

The CHAIRMAN. Five regiments.

Mr. PARKER. How many were there before that?

General MURRAY. There were 7 regiments of Coast Artillery before that time, and it was increased from 7 in 1901 to the equipment of 13 regiments. At that time there were made 14 colonels of artillery, one of whom should be the chief of artillery. Later that chief of artillery was given the rank of brigadier-general, and the provision was made that he should not be included in the colonels, and that the number of colonels should thereafter be reduced to 13. So as it now stands there are the equivalent of 13 regiments in the artillery. The proposed bill—though it provides that we shall get the equivalent of 14 regiments in the Coast Artillery and 6 in the Field Artillery—provides for the regimental organization only for the Field Artillery. We simply get the equivalent in the Coast Artillery to give a corps organization.

Mr. PARKER. Did the increase of 1901 give an extra rank by promotion, or extra promotion to officers of artillery, so that they are on the whole any more promoted than any other branch of the service?

Secretary TAFT. I think they have an advantage in that respect; I think they then had.

Mr. PARKER. And they now under this bill would have a probable advantage?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; that is a poetic justice that perhaps is not done to the same individuals; but there were twenty-five years in the artillery when there was not any advancement at all for the officers.

Mr. PARKER. I understand that it was very bad for the lieutenants in the year 1896. I know that there were some first lieutenants who had served in the civil war and who never received advancement.

Secretary TAFT. There was one general who retired as a brigadier-general; he was a major—I think Major Davis—who had a son in the cavalry or infantry, and the question was whether the son should beat him to his majority, and I think he got ahead of his son by a few days. That was notorious all through the service.

Mr. PARKER. It is well known that when you make any very sudden enlargement of an army and promote young men—quite young men—instead of getting the older men into the higher grades, so that the younger men get into the higher grades, it makes what is called "hump," so that nobody gets a promotion for a great many years.

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir.

Mr. PARKER. Is there not a likelihood of such a "hump"—I do not know that I should use that word—but such a stoppage of promotion in the artillery, even under its present organization, and would not an enlargement of this sort, which promotes the younger officers to the higher grades, be likely to create a great deal more such stoppage?

Secretary TAFT. This increase will postpone the "hump" a little further—put it back. By that time we may be asking for further relief. But there was a provision in this bill or one of the bills introduced by which cavalry and infantry officers, I think, were given an opportunity to go into the artillery.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; both artillery and cavalry. The lieutenants, I think.

Secretary TAFT. Captains, too, I think.

The CHAIRMAN. I do not remember about captains; possibly you are right.

Mr. HAY. This increase of artillery will really operate as an increase of the Army, will it not?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; of course it will not increase the maximum to which the President can increase the Army—that is, he has that very shadowy power to increase the Army which depends upon an appropriation from Congress to meet it.

Mr. HAY. But do I understand you that under the operation of this bill he can not increase the Army beyond 100,000?

Secretary TAFT. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. This includes the Regular Army.

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; and it includes also the scouts of the Philippines.

General MURRAY. If you will allow me a moment, I will say that under the present status, taking the maximum allowed for the different organizations—cavalry, artillery, engineers, naval scouts, etc.—the total of the different maxima is 106,542. Each may be increased to its maximum as given in that total, but the President can not increase the maximum for the total Army over 100,000 men.

Secretary TAFT. It is provided in the bill:

That nothing contained in this act shall increase the total number of enlisted men in the line of the Army, together with the native scouts, as authorized by section thirty-six of the act of Congress approved February second, nineteen hundred and one, entitled "An act to increase the efficiency of the permanent military establishment of the United States.

Mr. HAY. If the President in time of war were to increase the Army to the extent that the act of March, 1901, authorizes him to do, he could put each different army of cavalry or infantry and the artillery up to the full.

Secretary TAFT. No, sir; he could not, because it is subject to this proviso. He could increase any of them so long as he did not increase the total beyond 100,000.

Mr. SLAYDEN. To a certain extent, then, it would be necessary to continue them in a skeletonized condition?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; some branch, whether the artillery, the cavalry, or the infantry. As to the limitation, I spoke merely from recollection; when the bill was drafted I knew that that was in it, and I find it here.

Mr. PARKER. Mr. Secretary. I forgot one matter about which I wish to inquire. At the last increase you were forced to take a good many untrained young men from civil life, were you not?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir.

Mr. PARKER. Would this increase force the same condition?

Secretary TAFT. Probably.

Mr. PARKER. So that there would be a large number of young officers coming into the artillery from civil life to fill up the ranks. Could you not avoid that by making the increase more gradual than is provided for in this bill?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; you could.

Mr. PARKER. By making it dependent upon the recruiting of the men?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; you could. I had forgotten one thing. The lieutenants to fill up are to be distributed over five years, so that would avoid the danger you point out.

The CHAIRMAN. Where is that in this bill?

Secretary TAFT. Section 10.

Mr. PARKER. Could not the difficulty be also avoided somewhat by making it easier to transfer men from one branch of the service to the other—good officers retaining their rank?

Secretary TAFT. Well, you could do that if you wanted to impose the difficulty of making the selection on the Secretary of War or on the General Staff, from the other branches, or by competitive examination, as they do in the Ordnance Department.

Mr. SLAYDEN. If we did not make an increase in the Artillery Corps, the Coast Artillery particularly, would it not be wise for us to discontinue the coast-defense programme as originally mapped out by the Endicott board and continue under the present one?

Secretary TAFT. Well, I do not like to say that it is wise from the standpoint of policy, for the policy that I feel is necessary for us at the Department is to get everything we can, because we know we need it all. If we get more fortifications, we know ultimately you will have to put in the men to man them, and therefore we would not like to say we ought to give up.

Mr. SLAYDEN. Let me put it in another way. If we continue the coast-defense programme, the erection of Texas fortifications, and the displacement of those great and expensive guns and things of that kind, is it not necessary, in the interest of economy as well as the rules of common sense, to provide enough men to take care of them and man them?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; I have no hesitation in saying that. It seems to me imperative.

The CHAIRMAN. I suppose if I get an idea in my head it is a hard thing to get it out—I do not get enough of them to crowd each other out—but coming back to this matter of separation, the whole theory of our legislation since the Spanish war has been to make all of our officers trained men in as large a degree as we could. The detail system was to give them training in different lines so that they would be valuable wherever you put them. The Coast and Field Artillery are separate services, although nearer alike than any other two services, and if you could separate a regimental organization—and you practically have a regimental organization now—by making them by Executive order, we should, I imagine, by law provide for at least six regiments of them. What I want to get at is why is not the Chief of Ordnance, who must have more general knowledge of field guns than the infantry or cavalry generals, the best man to have charge of it all?

Secretary TAFT. Mr. Chairman, I should be inclined to question that policy. It is true you do detail from the line to the staff corps, because an artilleryman or an infantryman or a cavalryman ought to know something about the Quartermaster-General's business, and possibly something about the Signal Corps, but it is not true that you transfer infantrymen to the cavalry, or detail them for that purpose, and when you consider the light artillery as nothing but a branch of the mobile army—exactly as the cavalry and the infantry are—then it seems to me that the principle that you suggest does not apply.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me put another question—

Secretary TAFT. The truth is, if you will allow me to say so, that the subjects on which the officers are examined—and that, after all, determines what they ought to know—are very different in some important branches, such as the Coast Artillery, the light artillery, and the Field Artillery, and it is really not fair to a man who is fitted for the light artillery, and who is devoting his whole attention to acquiring a knowledge of that branch of the service—and there are no officers in the Army who are more enthusiastic than the officers of the Field Artillery—to compel him to go down to Fortress Monroe and sit down for six months and cram up on a lot of subjects that he does not need as a field officer, merely in order to get promoted. It seems to me it is a waste of effort.

The CHAIRMAN. What I was getting at is why the light artillery—which is part of the mobile army, with the new arrangements of fire

control, range firing, and all that adopted for the Field Artillery, as well as for the other—is not in point of detail the same.

Secretary TAFT. It is something of the same, but if you will examine the subject of the examination you will find that they are quite different. The Coast Artillery ought to be made familiar with torpedo and submarine work, with which the Field Artillery has nothing whatever to do.

The CHAIRMAN. That does not apply to the Field Artillery, of course?

Secretary TAFT. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. The Field Artillery would not have anything of that kind.

Secretary TAFT. No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. But as to the guns, the fire control, the calculation as to the angle that should be mapped out, it is pretty near the same in detail?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir. I suppose they are rather more profound, if I may use that expression, in the Coast Artillery than they are in the Field Artillery with respect to such matters. Then, on the other hand, you ought to consider, it seems to me, that these field artillerymen are cavalrymen in a sense. They have to learn—and it is a very technical subject—the drill of a battery of Field Artillery, and why should the coast artillerymen be subjected to an examination on equitation or in a drill that is required with a light gun?

The CHAIRMAN. My understanding is that the young, active boys are all in favor of doing away with the regimental organization on the general theory that in the Field Artillery the officers should largely consist of active young fellows, who, as they grow older, would be transferred. A man who gets old and fat does not care about riding horses. [Laughter.]

Secretary TAFT. It is better for him if he does.

Mr. SLAYDEN. According to this bill, promotion in these two branches of the Army is restricted to each particular corps, is it not?

Secretary TAFT. It is, after the effect of the promotion has been distributed between the two branches.

Mr. SLAYDEN. Then a coast artilleryman must have his promotion in the Coast Artillery—he must be promoted from service?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, after the present increase in promotion has been distributed between the men who will form subsequently the two corps.

Mr. SLAYDEN. I had in mind an idea which you very largely covered just now, namely, that while dissimilar, there is still such relationship between the two branches of the service that there might be detail from one to the other, and promotion from one to the other, but I see the bill provides against that.

Mr. HAY. Mr. Chairman, as I understand your point, it is as to the Chief of Artillery?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; that he would be a better man to command the Field Artillery than any other man in the service.

Mr. HAY. The point is not as to artillery officers themselves, but as to whether or not this Chief of Artillery should command a whole artillery corps, including the Field Artillery.

The CHAIRMAN. That was the proposition, but I was going to follow it up with another one. If that is true, is it not better to

create the two branches and organize this regiment, and let the administration transfer officers back and forth as they believe for the betterment of the service?

Secretary TAFT. That can be done.

The CHAIRMAN. It can not be done under this bill except by their arranging their own transfers among each other.

Secretary TAFT. I believe I have the power to transfer a man from the infantry to the cavalry if I choose.

The CHAIRMAN. Whether he wants to be transferred or not?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; I think I have.

The CHAIRMAN. I thought they had to arrange their own transfers.

General BELL. It can be done on mutual application.

The CHAIRMAN. Do I understand that it has been done without application?

General BELL. Yes, sir; a very fleshy man has been transferred from the infantry to the cavalry.

The CHAIRMAN. I thought that had to be arranged by the officers themselves.

Secretary TAFT. It is a regulation of the Department.

The CHAIRMAN. There is nothing in the bill separating the two corps that looks to the creation of another brigadier-general, is there?

Secretary TAFT. No, sir; we have enough of them.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand that you have quite hard work to keep them employed.

Secretary TAFT. I am going to employ them, and not as territorial satraps, either.

The CHAIRMAN. Gentlemen, are there any other questions that you desire to ask with regard to this artillery matter. General Bell, do you desire to say anything with regard to this artillery matter?

General BELL. No, sir.

BRIGADE POSTS.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Secretary, you said that you wanted to be heard on the matter of brigade posts. If so, we would be glad to hear you.

Secretary TAFT. I understand that there is an amendment in the military bill which provides that there shall be no buildings put up at brigade posts without authority of Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. That is right.

Secretary TAFT. I would like to have, first, a definition of what a brigade post is.

The CHAIRMAN. I suppose a brigade post is where you are concentrating enough troops to make a brigade.

Secretary TAFT. I know, but they have not been concentrated.

The CHAIRMAN. But you propose in your estimates to do it.

Secretary TAFT. But they have not been.

The CHAIRMAN. That is the reason we thought we would put it in the bill so we could see where we were going.

Secretary TAFT. I want to be perfectly frank about it, because, as the law is now, as I read it, there would not be any limitation at all in this proviso.

The CHAIRMAN. Then it will not do any harm.

Secretary TAFT. Perhaps not, if you understand it that way.

Mr. HAY. What is the law now?

Secretary TAFT. There is, as a matter of fact, no law about a brigade post at all.

Mr. SLAYDEN. There is no such entity?

Secretary TAFT. No, sir: there is no form of a brigade in a post now.

Mr. PARKER. It will not amount to anything unless we say that no buildings shall be put near the post except for the accommodation of a regiment.

Secretary TAFT. Yes; and I suppose you would not want to say that where there is more than a regiment, and I rather think it would be unwise even if you put in for the purpose of creating a brigade post.

The CHAIRMAN. One reason why we have put this in is that we have had before this committee repeatedly propositions for the purchase of land to create posts. It is a question of legislation that does not belong to any appropriation bill. This year in the estimates submitted for the sundry civil bill there is an appropriation for the purchase of land amounting to between two and three million dollars. Of course we are not going to let the Committee on Appropriations have that; we are going to retain jurisdiction of that because it properly belongs to this committee.

As to the question of where we want large posts, we have a law now that you can not establish a new post except by authority of Congress. That was passed because the Department, under the former administration, went down into Chattanooga and borrowed some money of a board there that had charge of a reservation, and bought land and put up a post without any authority of Congress, and in order to keep a popular official from getting in a bad box we allowed that to be reimbursed to him on the sundry civil bill.

Secretary TAFT. Of course the purchase of land is amatter that comes up distinctly for a particular purpose, I agree, and I had supposed that where that was under consideration the question as to whether there should be a large post would necessarily be presented, because we have no authority to buy land, except in the Coast Artillery matters, out of any general fund; but to restrict the Department in the expenditure of the barracks and quarters appropriation from putting up a building that may be needed because it is contemplated some time in the future to make it a brigade post, it seems to me, is attempting to restrict the Department in a very injurious way.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me give you another illustration. I will state an instance in Arizona. A few years ago the War Department issued an order to abandon Fort Whipple. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe road came down here in force, and they rescinded their order. It was undoubtedly proposed to abandon it because it was not needed, and it was an expense. Now it is proposed to retain it.

Secretary TAFT. All I have to say about that is that it is not alone the railroads that come down to prevent the abandonment of posts and the difficulty of working out a system by which we shall have the posts in such a way as to make the Army efficient, is very great.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand that.

Secretary TAFT. And I hope that the War Department will be given as much discretion as possible to enable it to, in a quiet way, avoid the effect of influence on the maintenance of posts that are unnecessary or ought to be abandoned, and I will do it, if you will give me the opportunity. It arouses feeling everytime, I agree, but to impose further restrictions is only to more greatly hamper the Department, and is likely to prompt us to continue the maintenance of posts that ought to be abandoned.

Mr. SLAYDEN. The policy which you have in view, generally speaking, is one which will make for economy of administration as well as the promotion of efficiency?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; it will promote efficiency in the Army. There is from 22 to 23 per cent of posts that will have to be rebuilt. There is no idea of abandoning any regimental posts at all. Every regimental post is so much larger than many of the other posts that they will always be maintained, but it has been hoped that if this appropriation is made—and nearly one-fourth of the posts will have to be rebuilt—we might expend that money out of the barracks and quarters fund in concentrating the Army in a few large posts, and that distribution would represent from ten to twelve thousand men. If we could get three or four or five brigade posts by the use of this amount of abandonment of the posts that I refer to that need rebuilding or abandonment, it would greatly facilitate the drill of the Army, and we would put into control the brigadier-generals who ought be taught how men in larger units than regiments can be drilled and handled.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, going back to this question, and reciting a little more history that has taken place since I have been on this committee, when Lamont was Secretary of War and Merritt was on the active list they had quite a hearing before this committee—I do not know whether it was taken down stenographically, Mr. Outhwaite was chairman—in which he made a very effective argument in favor of the abandonment of smaller posts and the establishment of regimental posts, trying to give one to each State as far as they would go, with the idea of accomplishing three things, first, to give the children the benefit of good schools; secondly, economy in saving transportation of supplies to distant posts on the frontier that were not longer needed, and, thirdly, the benefit to the Army of having regimental organizations. Now, we have gone on since that time and, I think, expended between \$50,000,000 and \$60,000,000 in the erection of posts. I think we have expended about \$50,000,000 since the Spanish war in the erection of barracks and quarters.

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, if we propose to go on and put up large buildings and concentrate brigades at five or six places, would you need a very large area for quarters for your Army?

Secretary TAFT. No, sir—

The CHAIRMAN. Have you not to-day quarters enough for all of our Army that is in the United States, even bringing back those that are in Cuba, and more too?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; but take, for instance, the quarters at the Presidio of Monterey; there are quarters there for a regiment, but they are temporary; they will have to be rebuilt, and you will

have to go on spending money to rebuild at least a quarter—not quite a quarter—of the posts that you have in the United States.

Now, what I am urging is that that new construction shall be put in posts where we can have larger divisions of the Army together. I agree that it would be better, if we could, to distribute those posts over the United States with reference to the States geographically, but the trouble is that the Army is a system and the army posts constitute a system which have been affected by the history of the country. A great many of those posts have been put out in the West because of the Indian warfares. The smaller posts were strategically arranged, as well as the larger posts in the neighborhood. So you have in Kansas, without any intervention of the men who are interested in Kansas at all, two of the largest posts in the Army. Now, it is a great deal easier to make them brigade posts, and, with the easy communication of railroads, it is a great deal easier to make them brigade posts and a great deal less expensive than it is to establish a post at, say, Oglethorpe, or in the East, where the land costs so much more—and you need a very large tract of land for a brigade post.

Mr. PARKER. Is there not another way, which is to maintain the Army during nine months of the year at regimental posts and possibly three months in the summer for brigade maneuvers? Is not that the policy? And to have the Army, when they go in brigades, altogether under tents? Is that not a policy which has been adopted almost altogether by the German army?

Secretary TAFT. It is another way, but it is not so good a way. It is a way that we shall, of course, adopt if we can not pursue the other.

Mr. PARKER. Does it not give the colonel a great deal more control over his regiment during most of the year, and really give better work in the field when it is altogether under canvas than otherwise?

Secretary TAFT. For three months it does, but not for nine months. In the matter of hospitals, for instance, I was particularly careful to go over the matter with the Surgeon-General with instructions not to allow the expenditures at posts where it was not likely we were going to continue the posts or to expend money which would be thrown away, if the plan we have suggested should be carried out. There are only four brigade posts that would be possible now without an express act of Congress, namely, San Antonio, Leavenworth, Riley, and D. A. Russell. There are no others that could be made into brigade posts without express sanction of Congress. If what you intended is to be construed in the spirit in which it was passed, it would prevent the erection of the smallest buildings at either of those posts, no matter how necessary, though not for the purpose of making it a brigade post, but simply for the purpose of arranging for what is needed for the troops that are there now. It seems to me the proviso, if it carried out the purpose for which it was introduced—that is, if it effected the purpose—would be quite injurious, and, secondly, I do not think that it is so phrased that it would, but I wanted to be perfectly frank with the committee. Of course whatever Congress should do, or whatever the committee does, I will have to bow to.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you think it is good policy to have two brigade posts in Kansas, 90 miles apart?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; if they could be only 20 miles apart I would be a good deal better satisfied, because the nearer you get your troops together the more you have them under management and control, and it is a great advantage to have Leavenworth quite near Riley, because the troops from Leavenworth can march down to Riley, and, with the 20,000 acres there, they can have their maneuvers with a body of troops quite near at hand.

Now, as to Texas, the constitution of the post at San Antonio will necessitate the abandonment of quite a number of posts in Texas along the border to San Antonio, which under railroad communication, is just exactly as good a point strategically as Fort Clark, Fort Bliss, or Fort Brown, and with a larger force there it would be much easier to resist an attack from Mexico, if we are to anticipate any such thing.

The CHAIRMAN. You do not propose to abandon Fort Bliss, do you?

Secretary TAFT. I think ultimately it will come to that.

The CHAIRMAN. Is your extra \$68,000 to be expended there for barracks and quarters?

Secretary TAFT. That is to complete a contract that had been made before I took office.

Mr. SLAYDEN. Do you refer to the forts along the Rio Grande?

Secretary TAFT. Yes; Fort Bliss is the last one. The forts on the Rio Grande to be abandoned are Fort Clark, Fort Ringgold, Fort McIntosh, and Fort Brown.

You have said, Mr. Chairman, that it is to cost \$50,000,000 to put in these new improvements. Well, that is true, but you increase your army from 25,000 to 100,000, and it costs about a million dollars a thousand men to house them, so that the increase is nothing more than normal.

Mr. YOUNG. In regard to that little matter of Fort Bliss, if that is to be abandoned——

Secretary TAFT. It would not be necessary to abandon Fort Bliss. The other forts are Fort McIntosh and Fort Clark.

Mr. YOUNG. I understood you to say that ultimately Fort Bliss would be abandoned; that it would ultimately come to that.

Secretary TAFT. I think probably it would, ultimately, but that is a good long time in the future.

Now, there is Fort Assinniboine, which is the largest reservation in the United States; it is up on the border of Montana, near the Canadian border, but it is a post that is old; water is very hard to get there and it is so cold up there that no troops can stay there and have a reasonable amount of time for drill.

The CHAIRMAN. Fort Niobrara is the next largest; they have about 64,000 acres.

Secretary TAFT. The largest post now, with the exception of Assinniboine, is Fort Sill in Oklahoma, because that includes a forest reservation, and taken with the forest reservation it covers about 100,000 acres.

Mr. TALBOTT. Of course, you do not mean that it would cost a million dollars to house the troops; you mean that is the first cost. You said it would cost a million dollars.

Secretary TAFT. I meant a million dollars to house a regiment of troops—that is, the erection of buildings.

Mr. TALBOTT. To put up a plant?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir. I do not mean to say that the system has not gone on with a great advantage, because I think the increase in these regimental posts is a great advantage to the Army. We have now a great many more regimental posts than we ever had before, and they are being increased. I would like to eke out of your regular appropriations just enough to make some steps each year toward three or four brigade posts.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Secretary, have any posts been abandoned during your administration? If so, which ones?

Secretary TAFT. Fort Niobrara has been abandoned; Fort Brown has been abandoned, although it does not seem to have been abandoned in Congress; also Fort Ringgold and Fort Clark. There you may remember that \$700,000—I think it was \$700,000, or perhaps a million—

Mr. SLAYDEN. Nearly \$900,000.

Secretary TAFT. Which was appropriated to reconstruct Fort Clark, and we abandoned Fort Clark. I say we abandoned it; we left it as a military post and went over to San Antonio with the money and are constructing new buildings there. Now Jefferson Barracks, Mo., has been changed from a post to a recruiting depot, and Columbus, Ohio, has been changed in the same way, and Fort Slocum, in New York, where we are building some additional buildings for a hospital, is in the present military bill. I think, at least it was in the estimates.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; we have an estimate here for Fort Slocum.

Secretary TAFT. And Fort Washakie, Wyo., has been abandoned.

Gentlemen, we have got the posts. It is not a question of our selection of the places. There they are, and we are struggling to do what we can. Fort McHenry, near Baltimore, is another one, but that was not reasonably within your question, because that was an artillery post.

Mr. SLAYDEN. Mr. Secretary, what do you propose doing with the lands at these abandoned posts? The law requires you to turn them right over to the Department of the Interior, does it not?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir: I think that might be well, but I do not know that the Government desires to be so generous as to turn some of them over to the States to be used for either charitable institutions or for the militia.

Mr. PARKER. We have been very much puzzled in this general bill about turning over posts to States, because there has been no proper form adopted as to the restrictions that should be imposed. Sometimes there have been restrictions that they shall be used for certain purposes, but they have been put in a certain form for the military of the United States, as is provided. I want to ask you whether it would not be a good plan for a special form, containing very thorough provisions, to be adopted for general use, so that when a post goes over to a State the use can be retained by the United States, say, in case of war. I was especially struck with that with reference to Baton Rouge, which was in a right good situation for cavalry soldiers and for men for the Spanish war, but we have gotten rid of it. We could not use it any more, and we have had to camp our men in places

that are not near so good and healthy. Those posts are, perhaps, more necessary in time of war, because there is where you can centralize and cover them in.

Secretary TAFT. If a general policy of that kind is to be adopted, I think it would be well to put the restriction in a statute which would be embodied in any subsequent grant made by Congress.

Mr. PARKER. That is true. I have another question to ask and that is whether the War Department might not think it worth while to draw up a careful provision of that sort, for in many cases we have felt that we have passed statutes that did not contain sufficient provisos.

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir. There is another matter that I would like to call to your attention—I do not know whether it has already been called to your attention—and that is the establishment of a post at Key West, Fla.

The CHAIRMAN. It would come before this committee if it related to the establishment of a post.

Secretary TAFT. It is not an establishment; it is a change. The Florida East Coast Railway is building a very great work—I mean great in the sense of having much commercial importance, and also much strategical importance to us. It is a railway from the mainland across the keys to Key West, and the only place where it can have their terminals is in the foreshore, opposite the present post garrison of Key West. Fort Taylor is on the other side of the key, and it would be much more convenient to have the post on the other side. Application was made to me to grant a temporary license to fill in that foreshore. A temporary license to fill in a foreshore is rather a confusion of terms, and I was not willing to grant it, although greatly interested in permitting the construction of that railway, because with it we should have a strategic point for moving troops to any point in the West Indies. It would be invaluable, and we could use the buildings of that post for a warehouse.

The CHAIRMAN. Suppose you send up a bill relating to that matter, and it will come before this committee. I do not know of any objection to it on earth with your statement.

Secretary TAFT. It destroys our post for the purpose of repairs, and we would have to buy land on the other side of the key and erect a post there for the Coast Artillery that man the guns of Fort Taylor.

Mr. PARKER. Would not the railroad company offer to buy the land in consideration of getting itself established?

Secretary TAFT. The railroad can not offer to pay us for what we have there. We have buildings that are worth—or were when they were erected—about \$400,000, and I think it would be more economical for the Government to retain those and use that as a warehouse, or as a storehouse, which we could use should emergency arise, rather than turn it over to the railroad and ask them to give us something in exchange.

Mr. PARKER. They are going to get some of the shore for their terminal.

Mr. TALBOTT. You are merely giving the right of way to the railroad company.

Secretary TAFT. No; that will take up the foreshore. It is a doubtful question whether we own the foreshore. Of course we can control their filling up because it is a part of the power of the Sec-

retary of War with reference to navigation, but it is so important a change that I did not feel like making it without authority.

Mr. BURKE. Under existing law what is the temporary disposition of these army lands?

Secretary TAFT. If any land ceases to be useful for military purpose, I turn it over to the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Secretary, before you leave I wish to pursue this matter a little further with regard to the terminal. Is that of sufficient value to the railroad company to justify them in buying this other land in exchange?

Secretary TAFT. Do you mean the foreshore?

Mr. YOUNG. Yes; the foreshore and all the rights that you propose to give them there.

Secretary TAFT. I would not give them any rights at all except the right to fill in and use that as a terminal—the filled part. I would not transfer the Government property there at all; I would like to retain that.

General BELL. May I state that the railroad company disputes the right of the United States to the foreshore under the laws of Florida and made so good a presentation of their case that the Secretary of War was very doubtful whether the United States Government has any right to the foreshore.

Secretary TAFT. That is it. The United States has the right to give access either through the power of controlling navigation or otherwise.

The CHAIRMAN. The matter of access would be a very important thing to give, and they ought to be willing to give something to have it settled.

Secretary TAFT. I suppose they have a pretty heavy expenditure, and they are not asking the Government for anything. I would be very glad to be generous with them and encourage the improvement, for it is one of the most important improvements now going on in this country.

General BELL. From a strategical point of view.

Secretary TAFT. And from a commercial point of view. Anyone who has been to Cuba, either by way of Tampa or Newport News, for instance, will understand the advantage of being able to go by rail within 99 miles of Habana, but it is, of course, a very expensive work building a railroad in the sea, for that is what it amounts to.

Mr. BURKE. On that point, as it refers to a matter that is to be laid before you this week and which comes up directly in this discussion, there are about 30 acres, say, in the city of Pittsburg that they propose to abandon. As to the temporary disposition of that, there was some notion in existence that you had authority to grant a revocable license, say to the city of Pittsburg, to keep that property in repair and return it to the Government on demand.

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; I have.

Mr. BURKE. There is such authority existing in the War Department?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; and to impose a reasonable rent; but I have the power to make a revocable lease for five years, I think it is, under the statute of any property that is unimproved and under the control of the War Department. But a revocable license to put up a

railway embankment and fill up a foreshore seem to me to be straining one's authority.

Mr. BURKE. The situation there is surrounded by a working district, and it is really criminal the contrast that exists outside of those walls. Practically the walls are going to pieces, especially as to the 5 acres that were turned over to the Treasury Department, and lives have been endangered by reason of the condition of the walls. That great place there is within reach of those people, but they can not use it simply because of the walls that are there.

Secretary TAFT. Can you not get Congress to give it to the city of Pittsburg?

Mr. BURKE. We thought that was a pretty bold proposition. We thought we could get them for a certain time under this revocable license.

Mr. PARKER. You stated that there was a forest reservation near Fort Sill, which makes it about 100,000 acres.

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir.

Mr. PARKER. Is it not true that it is very difficult to get room for artillery practice and artillery maneuvering at Fort Riley, where there are only twenty-odd thousand acres?

Secretary TAFT. I would not say that.

Mr. PARKER. I was under that impression.

Secretary TAFT. Of course, if you get a modern artillery officer, or a modern, up-to-date maneuvering officer, he would like to have a whole State to maneuver in: but the truth is they are able to do very good maneuvering there.

Mr. PARKER. Is it not proper and right that this forest reservation should be in some way made subject to the rights of the War Department, so that there would not be any distribution of this other tract of land?

Secretary TAFT. It is already so arranged that we can use it; there is no trouble about that at Fort Sill.

Mr. PARKER. But what I desired to say is that it should not be disposed of without the action of the Military Committee, so that they would have something to say about it.

Secretary TAFT. I see the point.

Mr. PARKER. It could not be made a part of the military reservation?

Secretary TAFT. Yes, sir; it might be. I say it might be; I think they might turn it over to us. Of course, they are experimenting with our trees. Now, our occupation of it would not hurt the trees.

Mr. PARKER. Would it be possible to pass a bill which would transfer that forest reservation to the military reservation, subject to its use by the Agriculture Department for testing trees?

Secretary TAFT. You have now opened a subject that perhaps I might say something about. In those western reservations it would be of very great assistance if the Secretary and I together, or the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Interior together, with the approval of the President, could piece out and round out military reservations by exchanging lands for homestead settlements within the territory that we wished to make part of the military reservation—I mean exchange section for section. Some sections are taken up that ought to be part of the military reservation, and if we could go into another part of the public domain and by agreement,

with the approval of the President, exchange the one for the other it would enable us without the expenditure of money at all to enlarge and round out the military reservations to a great advantage.

Mr. PARKER. And also would it not be an advantage that in these days of large maneuvers there should be at least one set of grants that would have enough ground to be free from settlement by putting some under the War Department, as well as the control of those large forest reserves?

Secretary TART. Yes, sir; I would like to see that done. But, so far as the forest reserves are concerned, with the President at the head, there is no trouble about retaining the forest reservations for military reservations if they are available for that.

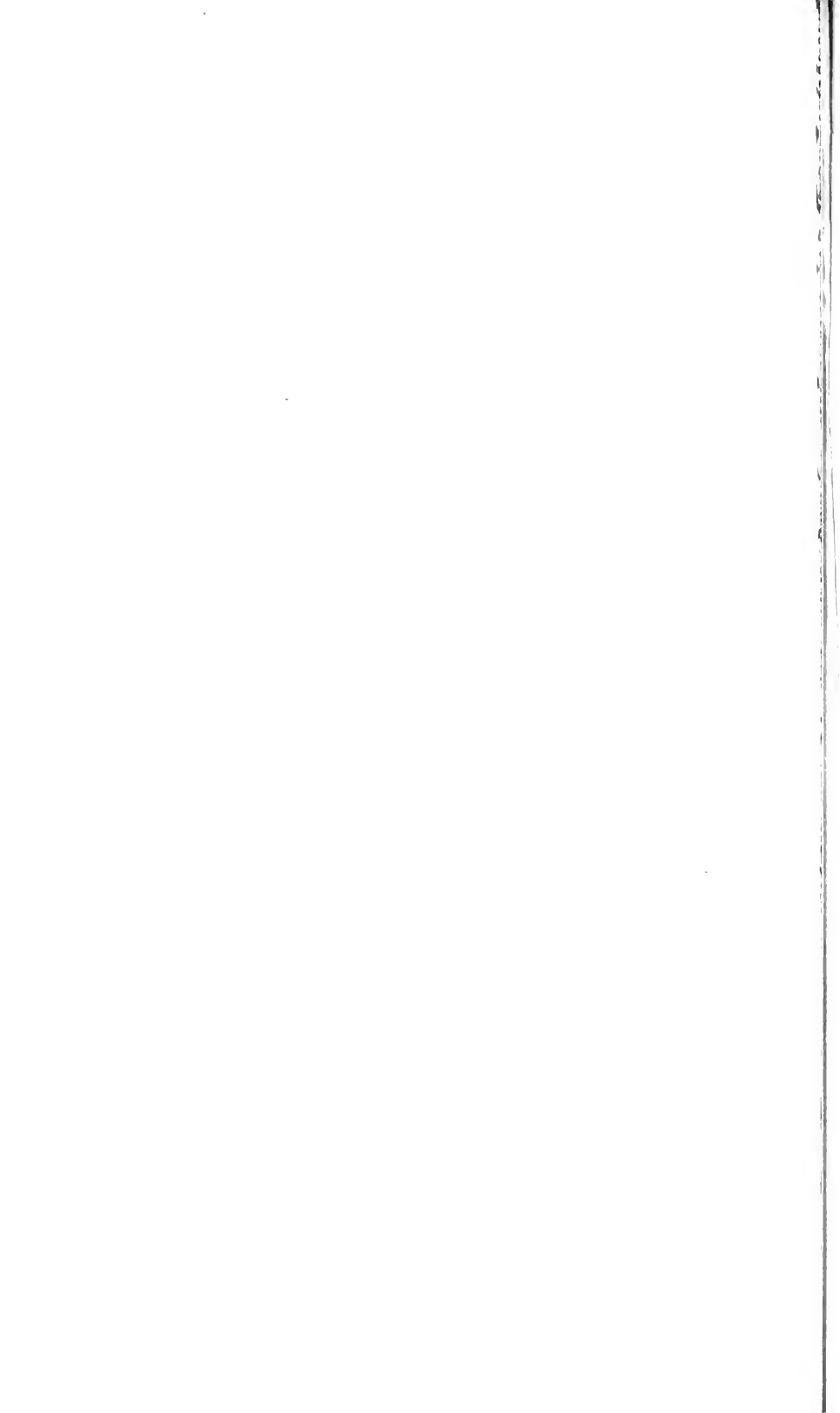
Mr. PARKER. A bill on that subject was referred to the Secretary of War instead of to the Secretary of the Interior?

Secretary TART. Yes. I tried to get it into this committee. It is a question of jurisdiction.

Mr. PARKER (acting chairman). Does General Bell desire to make any remarks?

General BELL. No, Mr. Parker. You asked me to put on the record what I stated to you. You raised the question with regard to dissatisfaction which would be created in the infantry and cavalry by the extraordinary promotion which would be given to artillery officers, and I stated that if the Coast Artillery were divided from the Field Artillery it would very rarely come in contact with the infantry and cavalry in such a manner as to cause dissatisfaction, and that the smallness of the Field Artillery as compared with the infantry and cavalry, and their being stationed at a very few posts, would reduce to a minimum any dissatisfaction that might exist because some of the younger officers of the Field Artillery had been promoted over the heads of their comrades in the cavalry.

The committee thereupon adjourned, to meet on notice.



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